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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Powell invites Gul to U.S. - Turkiye
Gul, Powell might meet at WEF in Amman - Sabah
Wolfowitz: Turkey a model country - Aksam
John Kerry says Bush lied on Iraq - Milliyet
Turkish troops for Iraqi peacekeeping - Milliyet
'Crazy Arab' Abizaid to replace Gen. Franks - Hurriyet
U.S. planning war against Iran in 2004 - Vatan

OPINION MAKERS

Iraqi attacks on U.S. troops continue - Radikal
Poll: Only 1 percent of Iraqis happy with U.S. troops - Zaman
Washington considering 30,000 peacekeepers for Iraq - Radikal
WP: Incirlik to become logistical base for U.S. - Yeni Safak
British MPs: Israel applies Hitler methods in Gaza - Radikal
Athens to take Aegean problem to EU Thessaloniki Summit - Cumhuriyet

FINANCIAL JOURNALS

Turkey's EU National Program targets 12 percent inflation - Dunya
Cabinet minister: Low Dollar could signal economic crisis - Finansal Forum

BRIEFING

Parliament approves EU reforms: The 6th package of EU harmonization reforms was approved by parliament. The reform package gained the backing of both the ruling AKP and opposition CHP. Article 8 of the anti-terror law, which bans separatist political propaganda, was abolished by the new legislation. Broadcasts in languages other than Turkish will be allowed, and the ban on Kurdish names has been removed. Papers regard the only shortcoming of the package as the removal of the clause allowing foreign observers to monitor elections in Turkey. Dailies hail the swift enactment of EU reforms, which moved Turkey 'one step closer to the EU.' Papers believe the EU will provide 'generous' financial aid for Turkey to support accession preparations.

MFA delegation's U.S. visit: MFA U/S Ambassador Ziyal told the Washington Post that he was satisfied by his meetings in Washington. Ziyal reiterated Ankara's readiness for cooperation in Iraq, and noted that Incirlik airbase could be turned into a logistical support center for coalition troops. Ziyal also said that Secretary Powell has officially invited Foreign Minister Gul to the U.S. Islamist-oriented "Zaman" claims that the 'strategic partnership' phrase was used by U.S. officials during the Ziyal visit merely as a diplomatic maneuver to prevent Ziyal from leaving Washington 'empty-handed.' Sources close to the U.S. Administration believe that the erosion of trust between the two countries is deep. Although Washington was pleased by the messages issued by Gul at the OIC summit in Tehran, it wants to see deeds as well as words, "Zaman"

reports.

Investigation into AWACS sale: A parliamentary commission on corruption has asked the Defense Industry Undersecretariat about the details of a controversial \$1.5 billion purchase of AWACS from Boeing's AWACS, "Milliyet" reports on its front page. Boeing allegedly did not meet its obligations under the agreement, and received an additional \$180 million in a 'price adjustment.' "Milliyet" notes that former Prime Minister Gul had refused to sign the agreement, which was approved by PM Erdogan shortly after he took office. Defense Minister Gonul allegedly said in April that Turkey had approved the agreement in an effort to smooth relations with the U.S.

Turkey will pay reparations to Greek Cypriot: Ankara will comply with a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) by paying \$1 million in reparations for the seizure of the Greek Cypriot Titina Loizidou's private property in Girne after Turkey occupied North Cyprus in 1974. Dailies point to some 3,000 pending lawsuits against Turkey on similar grounds, which could add up to \$20 billion. Papers see the payment as a positive step forward in Turkey's drive toward EU membership.

Tehran 'flirts' with Turkish Alawis: "Cumhuriyet" blames Tehran on its front page for ongoing attempts to export its fundamentalist regime to Turkey. Iran's Embassy in Ankara has invited Turkish Alawi representatives to Tehran, the paper reports. A few organizations have accepted the invitation, and Iran is continuing intensive missionary activities in Turkey. These efforts have resulted in considerable support for Tehran among Turkey's Islamists. Alawis are an affluent political community in Turkey, and are well-known for their commitment to secularism.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Mideast / Iran

"On the eve of a new Middle East"
Erdal Guven opined in the liberal-intellectual Radikal (6/20): "Iran is part of the 'Axis of evil,' a fact that should not be ignored. Iran is now becoming also a part of a new Middle East design. It requires no prophecy to expect an eventual regime change in Iran. . But the US is not going to use tactics that worked in Afghanistan and Iraq for Iran. In the Iranian case, the US is more of an observer than an interventionist. The regime change process in Iran is already working in a very healthy way, through Iran's internal dynamics. The regime continues to hold power, yet the moral high ground belongs to its opponents. At this stage, the US will probably work toward strengthening the hand of the regime's opponents and weakening the regime by through secret operations. The new Middle East is about to be born -- from Kabul to Jerusalem, and from Iraq to Iran."

"Pressing Iran and Turkey"
Sami Kohen observed in mass appeal Milliyet (6/20): "The international community is exerting intense pressure on Iran, even though Iran's production of nuclear arms has yet to be documented. The Bush administration, just like during the campaign against Iraq, is using the nuclear arms claim on every possible occasion. The interesting part of this story comes with the EU decision to support this claim. The EU has joined the US campaign and started warning Iran, including the implied threat of military force if diplomacy fails. . Turkey shares the Western world's worries and suspicion about Iran's nuclear program. Iran has been asked to demonstrate to the international community that its nuclear program is designed for peaceful purposes, as Tehran claims. . During U/S Ziyal's visit to Washington, Ankara made it clear that Turkey is on the US side on the Iran issue. However, more specifics on this matter will be worked through the efforts of the IAEA, in which Turkey is one of 35 members."

PEARSON